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**Abstract of the Disclosure**

        An offshore system for petroleum production has a buoyant platform. A tendon assembly secures to the platform and extends down to a counterweight located near the lower end. A piling is embedded in the sea floor. A socket at the counterweight telescopingly slides over the upper end of the piling to prevent lateral movement of the platform. A dampening chamber is located between the socket and the piling. Ports for the chamber are arranged to allow a faster downward movement of the piling than upward movement.